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**In the United States Patent and Trademark Office**

Serial Number: 09/207,339  
Application Filed: 1998 December 8  
Applicants: Topping et al.  
Application Title: Automated Identification Through Analysis of Optical  
Birefringence Within Nail Beds  
Examiner/GAU: Bali, V./2623

Mailed 20 November 2001

at San Francisco, CA

**Amendment A**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, District of Columbia 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of 2001 May 23, please amend the above application as follows:

**Claims**

Cancel claims 1-20 and add new claims 21-40 as follows:

**21. (New)** A system for determining the identity of a pattern on an area, comprising:

- a. a light source other than a laser, having a predetermined spectral bandwidth for producing a collimated beam of light,
- b. a beam splitter for splitting said collimated beam of light into a plurality of beams,
- c. a modulating frequency source for modulating the frequency of one of said plurality of beams,